



DHS Matters!

Michigan Department of Human Services • Lansing, Michigan • October 2, 2006

Produced by DHS Office of Communications, Suite 1510, Grand Tower, Lansing

Submit stories by e-mail to DHS-Newsletter@michigan.gov

Three DHS employees ran bridge with governor on Labor Day

Three DHS employees – **Janell Thelen** from DHS Accounting in Lansing, **Tonya Turkelson**, a family independence specialist with Emmet County, and **Colleen Ryan**, a family independence manager from Grand Traverse-Leelanau DHS – were among runners at the 2006 Mackinac bridge run with Governor Jennifer Granholm on Labor Day.

“The whole experience, including meeting with the governor who is a charming, energetic lady, and running across the bridge was very inspiring,” Ryan said. “Governor Granholm had a special message of ‘thanks’ to DHS employees. She believes in what we do as an agency and really appreciates our dedication.”

The three ran with a 30-member group of state employees. “It was a great opportunity and experience I will remember forever,” Turkelson said.

“When we began the run, the day was just beginning and it was amazing. Before you knew it you were crossing the finish line with a crowd of people cheering you on. Governor Granholm said she appreciates our hard work and to spread the word to others that she is aware of how difficult it is right now.”

The DHS runners were members of a state employee group that ran behind wheelchair users.

“I am grateful for the opportunity,” Thelen said. “Running with the governor in itself was a privilege. Combining that with being able to run the Mackinac bridge is truly an opportunity of a lifetime. The beauty of the environment at sunrise and the inspiration made the five mile journey seem like one mile.”

How did DHS select three runners to represent the department? “We had such a good response, a drawing had to be held to determine the winners,” **Laura Linebaugh**, assistant to the DHS director, said.

“All the names were thrown in a hat –actually a flower pot since that was the only thing we had handy in the director’s office – and the names were drawn out.”

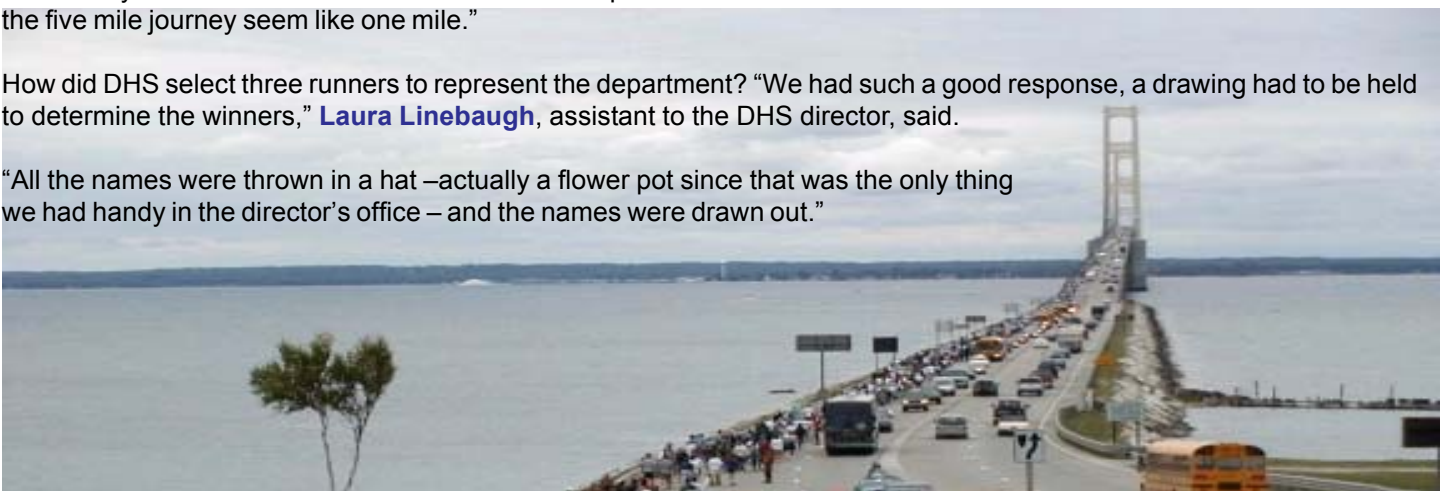


Gov. Granholm with **Colleen and Tony Ryan**, both DHS employees in Grand Traverse-Leelanau DHS. Colleen was one of three DHS employees selected to participate in the governor’s annual Labor Day Mackinac bridge run.

Click to read...

Local & other stories.....2-3

Your letters.....4





Adrian art therapy on display around the state

From Liz Hartz, Art Therapist
Adrian Training School, Adrian
HartzL@michigan.gov

This fall begins the ninth year of art therapy at the Adrian Training School (ATS) and continues its successful collaboration with Adrian College.

In 1999 ATS added art therapy as part of more gender-specific services to become more responsive to the developmental needs of its female adolescents and the risk factors they encounter in our culture. Students at ATS receive weekly group art therapy services working with a variety of creative media to increase self-awareness, express feelings, and to develop problem solving and coping skills. An exhibition of ATS student artwork (some displayed at top of page) entitled "Creating Positive Transformations" is on display at the Adrian College Heritage Room Gallery through Oct. 10

ATS also provides a series of art therapy workshops focusing on recovery, building self-esteem, developing healthy boundaries and healing grief. Two murals from ATS healing grief workshops are on display in the lobby and on the 15th Floor of Lansing's Grand Tower Building until late October.

Adrian Training School is a secure, residential DHS juvenile justice facility licensed to provide care for up to 80 young women ages 12-21. The school provides treatment services to young women and their families in the juvenile justice system with the goal of successful community re-entry. For more information on ATS go online to http://www.michigan.gov/dhs/0,1607,7-124-5452_34044_34049-108482--,00.html

■ Adrian College professor Liz Hartz developed the ATS program and directs the Pre-Art Therapy Program at Adrian College. She will present her work at the DHS brown bag lunch series Oct. 19 in Lansing.

National Depression Screening Day is October 5

From David Ware
Employee Service Program
www.michigan.gov/esp

You are probably already trying to watch your diet, get enough exercise, and keep a balance between work and your personal lives. You very likely have also scheduled your annual physical examination and dental check-ups as well.

Does your physical health impact your mental health? Have you considered a mental health check-up? Depression, anxiety, eating disorders and alcohol abuse may not show up in a routine annual medical exam yet each of these conditions are connected with various other health problems such as high blood pressure, heart disease, gastrointestinal problems, type II diabetes and gall bladder disease.

Thursday, October 5 is National Depression Screening Day. It's an opportunity to take a pause in your daily routine to "check-in" with yourself related to emotional health.

If getting a complete picture of your health is of interest to you, the Employee Service Program invites you to complete a five-minute mental health self-assessment, designed to provide you with totally anonymous feedback regarding these medical conditions. You will also be provided with information about how to obtain further evaluation and possible treatment services. The benefits of anonymous, telephonic and/or online screening are early intervention and diagnosis – the quicker a problem is discovered, the easier it is to return to overall health. Overall, 80 percent of depression sufferers can be treated effectively.

You can complete a self-assessment online, by going to the Employee Service Program Web site, www.michigan.gov/esp and following the links to the Interactive Screening Program. You may also complete an assessment for either alcohol or depression telephonically by calling 1-800-887-5676 and using your touch-tone keypad to respond to the pre-recorded questions.

In addition to inviting you to visit our Web page, the Employee Service Program would also welcome you to contact us directly, to confidentially discuss any concerns that you may have in these or other areas that affect your life. You may reach the Employee Service Program by calling 1-800-521-1377 statewide, or 1-517-373-7630 in the Lansing area or 1-313-456-4020 in the Detroit area.



This group of juvenile justice trainers from around Michigan participated in the National Institute of Corrections “T4T” session this summer.

T4T: training for juvenile justice trainers and beyond

From Andy Tardif, Manager

DHS Bureau of Juvenile Justice Training Unit

TardifA@michigan.gov

Because of a recent first-time event, 22 new trainers are serving the Michigan juvenile justice community. Staff representing mental health, detention, treatment and community providers participated in the 40-hour National Institute of Corrections course Training for Trainers, or T4T. The introductory course – intended for inexperienced trainers – was held July 31-Aug. 4 at the BJJ Training Center in Whitmore Lake.

This T4T is especially noteworthy for two reasons:

- It was the first education for trainers from Michigan’s continuum of service providers.
- It is the third training sponsored by the fledgling Michigan Juvenile Justice Training Roundtable that originated from the Bureau of Juvenile Justice’s Public Private Partnership Initiative, a part of the bureau’s strategic plan.

The results are impacting the Michigan juvenile justice training by: recruiting participation from all state providers; improving trainer skills, training program content, and continued professional development; collaborating on training events; providing training opportunities, statewide conferences, in-service, special needs, and geographically distributed opportunities.

Designed as a vehicle for cooperation, collaboration and communication, the roundtable format has made a lasting positive impact in the juvenile justice training community. Future directions include:

- **Curriculum.** Establishing a curriculum review work group to develop criteria for curriculum, to identify training needs, and to develop procedures to review statewide training curriculum.
- **Training.** Creating a work group to continue teaching new trainers and to incorporate experienced trainers into the team.
- **Web site.** Continue development of a Web site as the central clearinghouse for training information. Plans for the Web site will include the current master training calendar, an eBay concept to list the approved training curriculum with goals, objectives and outlines, and a listing of approved trainers with biographies and testimonials.
- **Regionalization.** Moving to a grass roots regional approach that delivers training throughout the state.
- **Research & development.** Experienced trainers and practitioners will surface current and relevant best practices and programs.

Date: Sept. 20
To: Caprice Daniel
DHS Client Service Unit, Lansing

Subj: Maria Torres-de Fernandez

This is a note to let you know of the exemplary service and utmost professionalism displayed by one of your employees. I have had contact with Maria Torres-(de) Fenandez on several occasions, in an attempt to correct some missed payments for our agency. Maria has always been especially helpful.

Some may say she is only doing her job but I feel she should be commended for the way in which she does her job. Could you let her know her service and the manner in which she performs her duties are well appreciated? Thank you.

Anna Genus, ACSW

The Salvation Army

Denby Center for Children & Family Services, Detroit

■ Maria Torres-de Fernandez is a member of the Customer Service Unit in Lansing that responds to inquiries from clients, legislators, service providers and others regarding DHS cases.

Your letters,
intercepted
and otherwise

Date: Aug. 9
To: Cindy Pushman, Director
Crawford County DHS, Grayling

Subj: Pam Sulak

The Office of Children's Ombudsman (OCO) would like to take this opportunity to recognize Crawford County CPS worker, Pam Sulak, for her commendable work on behalf of the (name removed) children.

As you know, the OCO recently investigated a complaint relating to Crawford County DHS's handling of the CPS investigation completed in December 2005 concerning physical abuse of the (name removed) children. We concluded our investigation and submitted a letter to our complainant affirming the actions of Crawford County DHS.

Ms. Sulak was the assigned CPS worker. After review of the case materials, we felt compelled to issue a separate letter acknowledging the exemplary work completed by Ms. Sulak under the supervision of Martha Burns.

The OCO was impressed with the thorough and systematic manner in which Ms. Sulak gathered and assembled information. Ms. Sulak evaluated the new allegations in light of previous CPS complaint allegations and coordinated the investigation with law enforcement and various medical personnel.

Ms. Sulak remained mindful of the impact of a removal on these special needs children and attempted to make arrangements that would lessen the trauma for all involved. Ms. Sulak's investigative and documentation skills are exceptional. The investigation was methodical and the documentation was clear and concise. Evidence of the clarity provided in Ms. Sulak's reports is that, once the reports were read, the OCO had no questions of substance.

It has been a pleasure to observe the excellent work of Ms. Sulak. There is no doubt that she is an asset to Crawford County DHS.

Verlie M. Ruffin

Children's Ombudsman

■ Pam Sulak is a services specialist with Crawford County; Martha Burns is a services program manager. Office of Children's Ombudsman is an independent state agency established by state law with the authority to investigate complaints about children in Michigan's child welfare system and investigate the actions, decisions, policies and protocols of the Department of Human Services and child placing agencies as they relate to a particular child. The ombudsman also makes recommendations to the governor, Legislature and DHS for changes in child welfare laws, rules, and policies.



DHS Matters! is a product of Michigan's Department of Human Services
Marianne Udow, Director • Karen Stock, Director, Office of Communications
Larry VanDeSande, editor • Submit stories by e-mail to: DHS-Newsletter@michigan.gov